

Lucien's  
Chronicles  
Red Winter

---



2019 Manpaint



# Lucien's Chronicles

Red Winter

---



2019 Manpaint





**Lucien's  
Chronicles  
Red Winter**

---



**2019 Manpaint**

**Related books:**

**Lucien's Chronicles - A Quantification**

**Lucien's Chronicles – Tale of the Erudite**

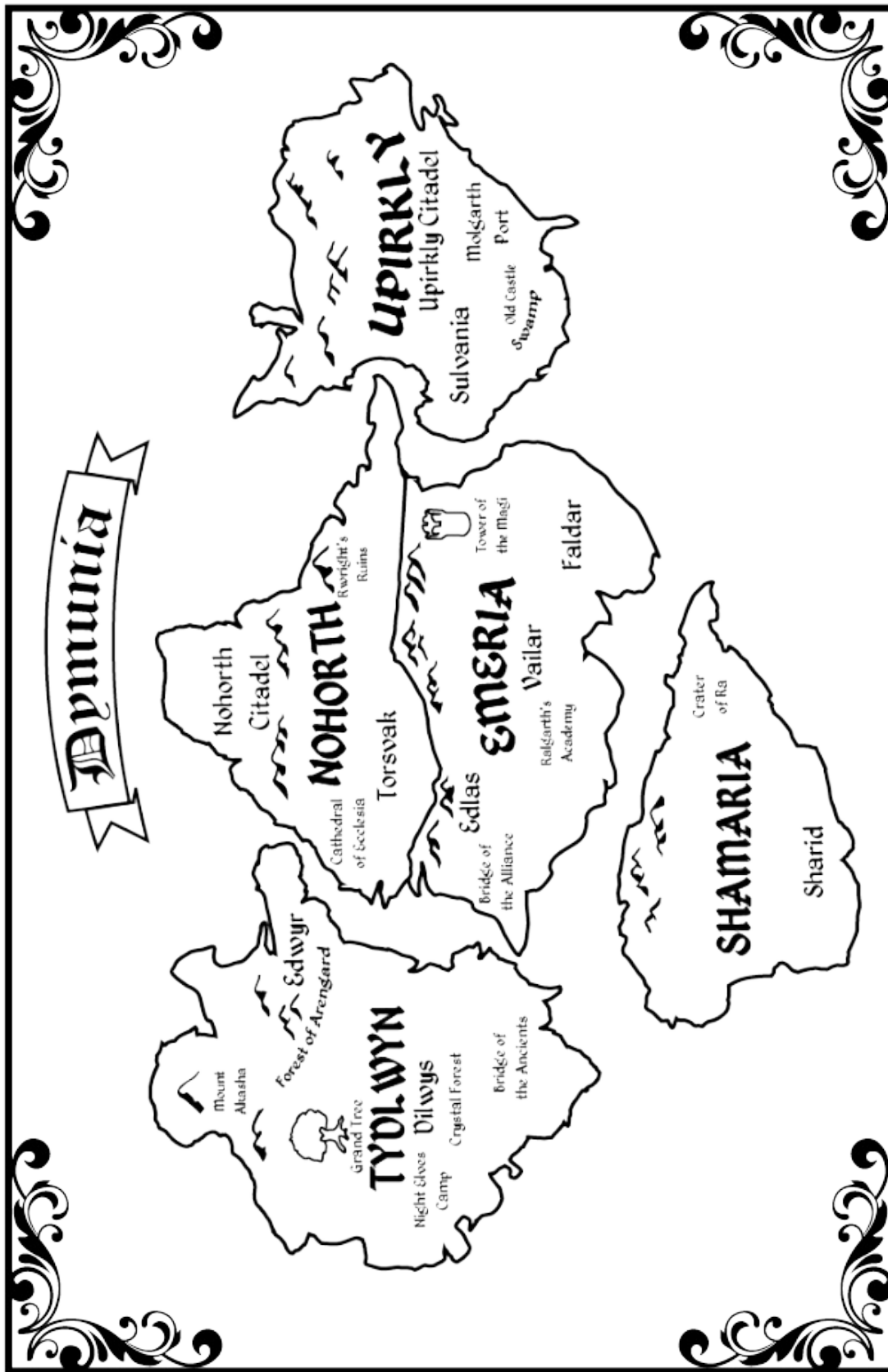
**Lucien's Chronicles – Way of the Architect**

**The events of Red Winter are not directly tied to the aforementioned books.**

**Related game: Black Ritual**







## **Prologue**

**(Reyna)**

Year 67 of Pnyre

All began during a night in the middle of December. We were on our way back home on a chariot during a cold blizzard. The count Humblewood had invited us for a dinner at his home. As we were approaching our mansion, my sister noticed something abnormal. There was two men exiting our residence. Their outfits were as dark as night. Their clothes were like those worn by monks. I could not see much of their faces because they were hidden with a hood. My sister, Elliana, unsheathed her sword. Most nobles usually chose to learn magic to defend themselves, but not my sister. She chose to master swordfight instead. Regarding me, I had not taken my decision yet. Magic can be useful, but it seems hard to learn. My older sister jumped on the ground and faced off the strangers. "Helliosians..." said my sister at a low voice. Once the strangers noticed her, they started to throw some magic spells at her. Elliana told me to run, so I did. I started to run to the north without a clear idea of where I would go. I was only seven years old and did not started my self-defense education yet, so I couldn't fight back. We were living in the county of Edlas, near the borders of the kingdom of Nohorth. If my chasers would catch up on me, I would be blocked. I wouldn't be able to go past the Great Wall. Even if I could, I wouldn't want to go up there. Nohorth is a scary place. I heard all sort of story about what happens inside the kingdom. There were stories about children disappearing at nighttime. Rumors of people being executed anywhere by the Black Guard. My legs were starting to get tired. We, the nobles are not exactly used to run. I was so tired that I fell down. In the dark of that moonless night, I couldn't see much. I was in the middle of a forest, lost and tired. I heard all sort of sounds. I tried to move but I couldn't. I attempted second time but I was still unable to. It was like my body was under a spell. It was getting colder. I was sleepy despite my will to stay awake. I saw a shadow moving through the pine trees but, that was probably just my imagination. I closed my eyes, hoping to reopen them again.

## **Chapter I - Nohorth**

### **(Reyna)**

I woke up in a warm place that was not familiar to me. Judging from the appearance I assumed it was the house of a commoner. Regardless of who it was, I would thank him for saving me. I heard footsteps coming from the stairs. It was a man wearing black vestments, like the ones at our house. I started to panic. Clearly seeing my panic, the man removed his hood. He was a brown-haired vampire. "Don't worry, I am not one of them" he said in a reassuring tone. He was an ally, not a foe. "Who are you?" I asked. "My name is Lucien vi Lecturnus." I was shocked. This man was part of the triumvirate that consisted of the three most powerful magicians in Dymunia. "Is this your home? I thought you resided in the Citadel of Upirkly?" I asked. "This is my second home near Torsvak" he replied. I became terrified when I heard the name of the village, Torsvak was a village in the kingdom of Nohorth. "We are in Nohorth?!". "Yes, but as long as you stay near me, things should be fine." We then heard someone knocking at the door on the first floor. Lucien opened the door to see who knocked. It was a blacksmith that was carrying a black sword inside a piece of cloth. The man had a surprised look on his face for a short moment when he noticed me. It was probably due to my coat. It was a beautiful piece of clothing crafted by the elves of Tydlwyn, so it wasn't common here. The blacksmith handed the sword at Lucien. "It is indeed coal, as I thought" the man said. Lucien looked a bit concerned. The magician gave the sword to his butler. "I will investigate later, I need to go see his majesty with that girl" he said. Once the blacksmith left, I asked Lucien why we were going to meet the king. "The king imprisoned your sister" he simply replied. "Why?!" I asked nervously. Lucien shrugged. He was then suddenly reminded about something. "Do you practice magic?" he asked. I told him that I did not. "That's good, because magicians get a death sentence here." Nohorth was one of the rare places in Dymunia where magic was forbidden. "Why do you live here then?". "Because I am Lucien, my presence is tolerated but I can't use any magic" he replied.

## Chapter II - Legends

### (Reyna)

We arrived in the village of Torsvak. The villagers were reunited around a gallows, I presumed someone was going to be hanged. "Look closely" Lucien said to me quietly. A man in black armor was preparing the execution where another man was bringing a little girl by force. One of the guards then said that the girl was about to be executed for having committed the act of stealing a piece of bread. The crying little girl was probably five or six-year-old. Shortly after the hanging, everyone went back to whatever occupations they had. I noticed that most people seemed to be almost starving. Lucien went to a stable to rent a horse and a cart. The citadel of Nohorh was very far in the north of the kingdom, so it was best to not lose too much time. The voyage was long, but I got to learn more about this brutal kingdom. "Why they are so against magic?" I asked. "This country was founded by a powerful mage named Claus Rwright." "While a formidable magician, he feared the potential of magic, so he decided to forbid it." he said. Lucien also mentioned that there were old legends about a prophecy in which the magicians would be the catalyst to the end of the world. While we were discussing, I saw a dragon on the horizon and alarmed Lucien. I was extremely scared because it was the first time that I saw one in my life. The magician was calm and didn't mind its presence. "Don't worry, it won't attack us." He said to reassure me. The dragon completely ignored us and flew to the mountains to the east. I asked Lucien why they didn't attack mortals. "Some say they were trained by Rwright himself, but I just think they remember a time where mortals could easily kill them with magic." he replied. After a few hours, we stopped for the night. It was starting to get very cold. "It's cold here!" I said. "We are in the north, what did you expected?" "I'll go make some fire". After placing some logs, flames appeared from nothingness. This made me jump. He just used in magic. "But, you..." I started. "No one here will see us, don't worry." I suppose he was right. Afterall we were in the dark of night. As we were sitting nearby the fire, I asked him some question. "So, you really don't know why they took my sister?" I asked. "I suppose the king seek a ransom of some sort, after all you are nobles." He said. He told me that the kingdom of Nohorth was relatively poor. People were starving. The only valuable resource this country had was coal. So, it made sense they were seeking some riches.

## **Chapter III - Royalty**

### **(Reyna)**

We reached the citadel two days later at night. The first thing we did was finding an Inn to rest. What could have been called a peaceful night was abruptly interrupted by a man screaming for help outside. I could see that a man was being taken away by the Black Guard. I asked Lucien, who has been awoken too, who he was. He shrugged. "It's not rare that some people accuse their neighbors of wizardry to get rid of them." He said. This was horrifying. Even the commoners were against each other's sometimes. As we went outside, I perceived for the first time the Castle of Nohorth. It was enormous. The central part was composed of a large tower-like structure. There were also two towers on each side that joined the main structure with bridges at the upper levels. We were approached by two members of the Black Guard but as soon they realized that it was Lucien, they let us in. We were welcomed by a man called Severth. He had black hair with a plain black vestment. Severth was very cold; he did not display any emotion. This man was the king's adviser. After guiding us through a hallway we met his majesty Vlohr Rwright. He was wearing a black helmet with horns; only his blue eyes could be distinguished. After asking us the reason for requesting this audience, Lucien explained the situation to the king. Vlohr said that his spies claimed to have seen Elliana using magic. I knew this wasn't true but arguing with him would probably not be a good idea. After a long conversation with the Lucien, the king decided to seek the recommendations of Ecclesia before doing anything. Ecclesia is a religious organization that encompass all the major religions in the world of Dymunia. As everyone know, monarchs usually listen carefully to the recommendations of the Church. So now had to go south east to the Cathedral of Ecclesia. "You are lucky that she is a noble and didn't get outright executed." Lucien said on our way back to the citadel. Once there, we took our horse and cart and started heading south. After a few hours, three men wearing black clothes came out of the bordering woods. "What are you doing here, Helliosians?!" asked Lucien with authority. "You should all be dead." he coldly said. It was obvious that Lucien knew who they were. The magician raised his arm in their direction. He was about to cast a magic spell. Except nothing happened. After a few attempt Lucien was completely destabilized. "How...?" he muttered. The three Helliosians suddenly had a vile smile on their face. One rapidly casted a fire spell in our direction. Lucien took me and threw us on the ground to avoid the flames. "Go east, and

seek an old chapel, they will protect you." He quietly said. I started to run east, leaving Lucien alone as he ordered. I also noticed that I clearly wasn't their target. I felt kind of bad letting him fight alone but what could I have done? He is one the best magician in all of Dymunia, if he couldn't cast a spell, something strange was going on.

## Chapter IV - Faust

### (Reyna)

After around one hour of running in panic, I finally apperceived the chapel mentioned by Lucien. A man was sitting on the foundation of a broken arch while reading a book. After noticing me , he immediately interrupted his reading to come see me. "Lucien, attacked by Helliosians" I said breathlessly. The man seemed very concerned by my remark of the presence of Helliosian. "What happened" he told me. After explaining what happened, the man told me that his name was Faust. He was also naturally worried that the greatest magician of Dymunia suddenly lost his power. Faust then asked me to follow him. He opened a trap and we went downstairs into what I seemed like to be an old crypt refurnished into some kind of shelter. There were around 20 people down here, all seemed intrigued by my presence. "You can't bring a noble here, Faust!" "She might denounce us to the crown!" said one of the men. "This girl is not from Nohorth" said a woman in the back of the room, near the fire. She was wearing a grey vestment with a hood to hide her face. When she pronounced that sentence, everyone went quiet. "Indeed, those clothes are from Edwyr" noticed Faust. Edwyr was an elven village, so he was right. Faust then explained to me that this place was a refuge for magicians in Nohorth. After explaining my presence in Nohorth to him , he said that one of his spies would create a fake approval so that my sister would be liberated. In the meanwhile, I talked to the magicians of the place to learn about them. After a while, I approached the grey-clothed woman. "What is your name?" I asked. "My name doesn't matter" she replied. After remaining silent for a few minutes, she picked a branch near the pile of logs to throw it into the fire. I noticed that she was wearing a golden ring on her left hand. It was made of pure gold and was similar to a wedding ring. She was surely not a commoner. I also noticed that the fire made no smoke whatsoever. I assumed some kind of sorcery was going on. "Leave our kingdom the fastest you can... you surely know how they treat woman here?" she said. I nodded. I know what she was alluding to. One day, our local priest in Edlas has told us that there was a widespread belief in Nohorth that women who were virgin could not go to the afterlife, in heaven or hell, and would eventually reincarnate. My heart was crushed when I thought about that little girl that got executed. My thought was interrupted by a man telling Faust that the raven arrived. The raven was a magical familiar that was used to carry messages around the kingdom. Faust came to see me. "I have the approval, but Lucien is held captive by the Church"

he said. "I will send someone to accompany you to the Citadel tomorrow."



## **Chapter V – Ecclesia**

### **(Lucien)**

After desperately trying to cast a magic spell, I got knocked out by one of theirs. When I awoke, I was in a cell in the dark. I saw a light approaching in the nearby corridor. "So, how does it feel, magician?!" a voice asked sarcastically. I soon realized whom this voice was. It was the Archpriest Aiden Rwright with a lantern. "What do you want from me?!" I asked with a little bit of authority. Aiden smiled vilely. "Just one little thing... that you start the fire." The Archpriest was talking about the Pyre Night. It was an annual ritual where members of the Ecclesia burned "witches" on top of the Rwright's Ruins to appease the gods. He wanted me to start the fire that would inevitably kill innocent people. "What happened to the girl that was accompanying me?" I asked. Aiden shrugged. "I don't know, and I don't care." After handcuffing me, the priest brought me upstairs. Every monk that we encountered lowered their eyes at my simple presence. Once in the main halls, Aiden convoked everyone before starting his speech. "Brothers and Sisters, the day of the Pyre Night have come again!" "That the gods may enlighten us with the fire of justice through the darkness of night!". Everyone then proceeded to go outside. In the court of the cathedral, there was a huge bonfire alongside a pile of torches. Every member of the clergy took one to embrace it with fire. We then started to walk in queue in the direction of Rwright's Ruins, to the east, while holding our fire torches.

(Reyna's perspective)

We awoke early in the mourning. A man named Adrian Rwright came to accompany me. I was a little bit scared when I heard the name of Rwright but, Faust told me he was an ally of Lucien. He was wearing glasses with black hairs (a lot of people had black hairs here) and looked like someone who received a decent education by the Church. We quickly left to reach the Citadel the earliest we could. Unlike with Lucien, we didn't have a cart that slowed us down. After a few hours of horse riding, we reached the town and immediately went to see the king. Adrian was the brother of the Archpriest Aiden Rwright, so he was a member of the Ecclesia and therefore acted as a representant of the Church. After his majesty examined the approval, he gave it back to Severth. "I will

release your sister, but with one condition..." "That you marry my son."

## Chapter VI – Pyre

### (Reyna)

I accepted. What else could I do? Shortly after, Adrian left the castle. Severth took me upstairs so that I could meet my future husband. The prince of Nohorth, Luis Rwright was studying something when we entered." "Young majesty, your future bride has arrived." Severth said. Luis then turned around intrigued. Severth then decided to leave us alone for a few hours after telling us that the ceremony would be during the sunset preceding the Pyre Night. After a little bit of talking, he told me he was expecting an arranged marriage as diplomatic ones happened in all of Dymunia. I then asked him how life was here. "It is so strict here... do you know what happened to my mother?" said the prince. I responded that I did not. "She started to question the actions of father... then they threw her in the depths of Nohorth's Rift". I had heard of that place before. It was a rift that was said to lead to a place of eternal torment. When the night came, we slept together. It was the first time in my life that I was that close to a boy. I wondered what happened to Lucien. Was he alive, was he dead? I could only wonder.

When the day came, we started our pilgrimage to Rwright's Ruins. It was apparently a mountain with the ruins of an ancient temple dedicated to Claus Rwright on top of it. We were accompanied by members of the Black Guard for security. I then wondered how they made their black armors as iron is not that dark. After a few hours of exhausting walking, we made it to the ruins. The members of Ecclesia were already in place. I saw that they had held Lucien captive as he was attached to a broken pillar, closely guarded. As the sun was setting, Aiden Rwright married me to Luis. I was now officially Reyna Humblewood Rwright. Once the night fell, the preparations for the ritualistic sacrifice began. A bunch of "witches" were tied to a pile of vertically-faced logs. A small bonfire was made nearby for those whom torches extinguished. Aiden Rwright then gave a torch to Lucien and said: "Tonight, former magician Lucien vi. Leturnus will redeem his sins by burning those witches as an offering to the Dymunian Gods". I knew very well that Lucien did not chose anything. As Lucien was about to light the fire, water appeared from nothingness to extinguish the flames. "Magicians!" shouted the Archpriest. The mages that I

met earlier took the opportunity to attack Ecclesia and the monarchy during the Pyre Night. Panic quickly spread among Ecclesians. The king of Nohorth immediately ordered a retreat to the Citadel. As we were running, I saw that the mages liberated the innocent women. While we were marched, I noticed that the dark knights had no problem to move or run whatsoever. I am not a knight obviously, but I know for sure that those armors were normally very heavy. Something strange was going on. Regardless, once we reached the Citadel, we headed straight to the castle and the king positioned his guards to the entrance, fearing that the magicians would come.

## **Chapter VII – Rebellion**

### **(Lucien)**

During the panic, I managed to evade the guards. The religious were running in all of the direction in panic, while the monarchy was retreating to the citadel. Faust then came to see me. "Lucien! Are you alright?". I nodded. I tried to cast some basic fire spell, but I still wasn't able to. "What did they do to you?" the magician asked. "I don't know, my powers, they are just... gone" I said. Once every member of the clergy left the ruins, we started to march toward Nohorth Citadel. The magicians would no longer tolerate to be treated as heretics. After many hours of a long walk, we arrived in front of the gate of the castle. Upon our entrance in the city, everyone who was outside quickly hide. The commoners feared us. Twella (the woman wearing grey clothes) drew a map of the castle and told us the strategic emplacements to attack. Using magic, Faust raised portcullis so that his army could assault the castle. The Black Guard were all positioned in a horizontal line, but swords are no match for magic. Many begged for mercy, while others were fighting aggressively. Meanwhile, the king was watching the fight on his balcony, looking concerned. Severth then silently approached the king behind his back to stab him. Vlohr Rwright then fell to his death. Everyone then stopped to fight once they realized what just happened. Luis Rwright then went on the balcony and said: "Subjects, I command you to drop your swords". Everyone obeyed because the death of his father meant that he was the new king. Nohorth had capitulated. The magicians had won.

In the next hour, many laws were abolished. The presence of magicians in Nohorth was now tolerated. Severth then proceeded to free Reyna's sister, Elliana. As I thought, Severth told us that the armor of the Black Guard was made with iron that had coal infused on it. Such armor would way to heavier for a mortal to carry, so they used enchantments to make it lighter. "You were a hypocrite..." Twella said while looking at the corpse of the fallen king. Reyna ultimately decided to remain in Nohorth to my surprise. I suppose it is because she is now bound to Luis. We did not head anything from Ecclesia, but they were probably hiding in fear. That being all said, I still don't know what prevent me from using magic, but Aiden Rwright seemed to know. "The world must never know..." I told Faust. He nodded. It was better that people thought that I was still

a powerful magician so that Ecclesia would still fear us. I made my way back to my home, the Citadel of Upirkly, I wondered why Ecclesia got so easily defeated if they could wipe out the power of the magicians. I will watch every movement of the Clergy. I have spies everywhere. I will find a way to reclaim the power I lost. I will, because I am Lucien.

**END**

*To be continued...*